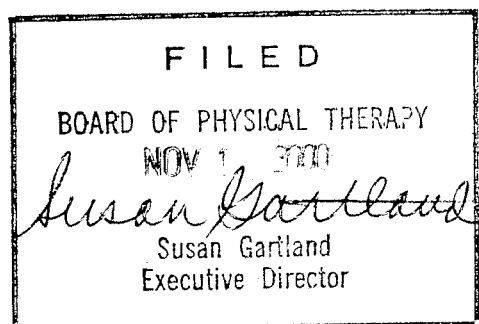


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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE SUSPENSION  
OR REVOCATION OF THE LICENSE OF

JOSEPH RUTALA, P.T.  
License No. \_\_\_\_\_

TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

CONSENT ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy (hereinafter "the Board") upon receipt of information that respondent had aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of physical therapy in his physical therapy practice at (South Jersey Physical Therapy and Back Rehabilitation Center and Salem Memorial Hospital). Specifically, it has been alleged that Stephen Baca, P.T.A., had engaged in the unlicensed practice of physical therapy during March and April 1998, while working under respondent's supervision. Additionally, it has been alleged that respondent has aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of physical therapy by Kimberly Humphreys, L.P.N., in her employment by Salem Memorial Hospital. Respondent's testimony evidences Nurse Humphreys engaging in the (unfettered) practice of physical therapy while working under respondent's supervision.

Further, the Board has reviewed billing records provided in response to its request and finds that the charges for services rendered appear to be excessive based upon the time and effort required and the novelty and difficulty of the professional treatment rendered.

On June 30, 1998, respondent appeared with counsel, Stuart Reiser, Esq., at an investigative inquiry into the matter held by the Board.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony of respondent at the investigative inquiry, it appears to the Board that the facts establish basis for disciplinary action pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).


It appearing that respondent desires to resolve this matter without recourse to formal proceedings and for good cause shown:

IT IS ON THIS DAY OF 2000,

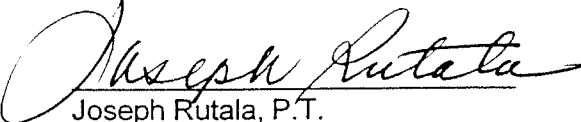
HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. Respondent shall be and hereby is reprimanded for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of physical therapy. Respondent shall cease and desist from aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of physical therapy.
2. Respondent shall cease and desist from charging excessive fees for services rendered through South Jersey Physical Therapy and Back Rehabilitation Center and Salem Memorial Hospital.
3. Respondent is hereby assessed civil penalties, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 in the amount of \$5000, for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of physical therapy by Stephen Baca, P.T.A., and Kimberly Humphreys, L.P.N. Payment for the civil penalties in the amount of \$5,000 shall be submitted by certified check or money order made payable to the State of New Jersey and shall be sent to Susan Gartland, Executive Director, at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, NJ 07101. Subsequently violations will subject respondent to enhanced penalties pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

By:  P.T. 6A0071  
NANCY KIRSH  
Board President

I have read and understand the within Consent Order and agree to be bound by its terms. Consent is hereby given to the Board to enter this Order.

  
Joseph Rutala, P.T.

I have read the within Order and consent to its form and entry.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stuart Reiser, Esq.